

Aviation Brigade, Fort Bragg; Future Operations and Current Operations Officer, 1st Squadron, 17th CAV, Fort Bragg; Headquarters Troop Commander, 1st Squadron, 17th CAV, Fort Bragg; Student, Army Aviation Captain's Career Course, Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker; and most recently Aviation Branch Representative, United States Military Academy, West Point. Additionally, Major Whiteside was deployed in direct support of combat operations in Mosul, Iraq, in 2006–2007, and Regional Command—South, Afghanistan, in 2009–2010. While deployed, Jake accumulated over 500 hours of combat flight time in direct support of soldiers in the fight.

Throughout his career, Major Whiteside has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work.

As a personal matter, in his role as Defense Legislative Fellow, Jake provided me with candid advice and became a trusted source of counsel to me, my personal staff, and committee staff. Blessed with a sterling intellect and nimble mind, he vigorously and effectively addressed any challenging task placed before him. Further, his incomparable work ethic, poise under pressure, and generosity will be sorely missed. To put it simply, Major Whiteside's performance has set a standard on which I will evaluate all future Congressional Fellows.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Jake Whiteside over the last year. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Jake for his service to his country and we wish him, his wife Marci, and boys, Bryce and Gavin, all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MERCY HIGH
SCHOOL BURLINGAME'S KOHL
MANSION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Centennial of Mercy High School Burlingame's Kohl Mansion, an historic and beautiful building with deep meaning for the community and for me personally. As an alumna of Mercy High and the mother of a daughter who also graduated from this outstanding school, this institution has shaped my life.

Today, Mercy High School Burlingame, a Catholic college preparatory high school, educates 400 young women a year, with the majority coming from San Mateo County. About three quarters of the students are Roman Catholic and 90 percent of the students are engaged in at least one extra-curricular activity. Mercy encourages students to discover themselves and explore their dreams; they receive an education of mind, body and spirit. This recipe and small class sizes prove to be highly successful. In the class of 2014, 87 per-

cent matriculated to four year colleges and 13 percent matriculated to community colleges.

Mercy education finds its origins in Ireland in the ministry of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Their work is marked by a special concern for the needs of the poor, in particular women and children. This tradition continues to this day.

The Kohl Mansion was originally built from 1912 to 1914 by Charles Frederick "Freddie" Kohl for his wife Bessie. Kohl, born in San Jose in 1863, grew up in a mansion on an estate in San Mateo, now known as Central Park. His father had made a fortune as the founder of Alaska Commercial Company and so Kohl Junior was used to an opulent lifestyle. Freddie and Bessie's travels to Europe further inspired them to build the lavish four-story Tudor named "The Oaks."

In 1924, the Sisters of Mercy bought the house and turned it into a chapel. When the sisters moved down the hill to a new building, Principal Sister Mary Lorenzo Murphy and seven other nuns opened Mercy High School in the mansion in 1931, admitting 36 freshmen and sophomores.

The old Kohl Mansion has embraced technology and modern facilities. Mercy launched its website in 1999. Over the decades, a state-of-the-art athletic center with an Olympic size pool, a commercial kitchen, a new cafeteria and a multi-media center were built, among the many improvements. At every step of the way, the focus of the school was to provide its students with the best education and learning environment possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the finest high schools in the country, Mercy High School Burlingame on the occasion of the Kohl Mansion's 100th birthday. May this historic building remain the home of education and learning for centuries to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SHIELD OUR STREETS ACT OF 2015"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing an important bill to respond to the crisis that some jurisdictions are facing with respect to hiring police officers and funding programs to enhance public safety. This bill would establish two public safety grant programs.

Section 2 establishes Shield Police Hiring Grants, to be implemented by the Attorney General, to provide grants to law enforcement agencies that operate in Elevated Need Localities. An "Elevated Need Locality" is a county (or unit of local government which is not part of a county) which (1) has a crime rate above the national average, and (2) has had budget reductions during the most recent 5-year period. These law enforcement agencies could apply to the Attorney General to receive funds to hire law enforcement officers, or to rehire officers who have been laid off due to budget reductions.

Grants would last for three years and may be extended by two years at the discretion of

the Attorney General. \$100 million for each fiscal year 2016 through 2021 are authorized to be appropriated for this program.

Section 3 establishes Shield Public Safety Enhancement Grants, to be implemented by the Attorney General, to provide grants to units of local government that has jurisdiction over all or part of an Elevated Need Locality. Local governments could apply to the Attorney General to receive funds to enhance public safety in a number of ways, such as purchasing public safety equipment, finding public safety programs, making infrastructure improvements for the purpose of enhancing public safety, purchasing and installing street lights to deter crime, funding activities related to crime labs, and funding public defender programs. Non-profit organizations operating in Elevated Need Localities may also apply for grants under this program to fund initiatives designed to reduce crime in these jurisdictions.

Grants would be for one year but may be extended at the discretion of the Attorney General. \$100 million for each fiscal year 2016 through 2021 are authorized to be appropriated for this program.

These programs will help enhance public safety in jurisdictions facing high crime rates and particularly acute budget issues. The programs would be available to fund the hiring of police officers and the operation of initiatives to address public safety and crime. Programs that enhance public safety will prevent crime, which will decrease the victimization of our citizens and reduce the financial costs associated with crime. That is why this legislation is necessary.

IN MEMORY OF GOVERNOR JAMES BURROWS EDWARDS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during Christmas week the people of South Carolina lost a true patriot with the death of Doctor James B. Edwards of Mount Pleasant. The following obituary highlights his love and affection for his devoted family and community.

JAMES BURROWS EDWARDS

OBITUARY

James Burrows Edwards Mt. Pleasant—James Burrows Edwards, DMD, 87, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, died Friday, December 26, 2014. Jim was born June 24, 1927, in Hawthorne, Florida to the late O.M. and Bertie Ray Edwards. Both parents were school teachers, careers which led them to St. Andrews, South Carolina, in 1935 and Mt. Pleasant in 1937.

As a boy in Mt. Pleasant, Jim spent his spare time at Ft. Moultrie, home of the 263rd Coast Artillery, and acquired a lifelong love of the military and life at sea. Jim graduated from Moultrie High School in June 1944, and took a job with the Army Transportation Corps as a deck hand on an L-78 tug boat. Though only 17 years old, he joined the Merchant Marines in December 1944. Jim was assigned to the Dogwood, a Liberty Ship converted to a hospital ship transporting

wounded servicemen home from Europe. Eventually he also served on the U.S.A.T. Bridgeport, the George Washington, and the Larkspur. Jim worked his way through the ranks from ordinary seaman to an officer by age 19, licensed to pilot ships transporting "any tonnage on any water in the world."

In 1947, Jim began studies at the College of Charleston, while also working as a night officer on ships as a member of the Master, Mates and Pilots Association. During summers, he remained active in seafaring trade, delivering coal to France and England, granite for the Santee Cooper Dam, and general cargo to ports throughout the Caribbean and South America.

Jim graduated from the College of Charleston in 1951, married Ann Darlington, his childhood sweetheart, and entered dental school at the University of Louisville. Upon graduation, he served two years on active duty with the U.S. Navy in Chincoteague, Virginia, as a general dentist. He would remain active in the United States Naval Reserve until 1967, retiring as a lieutenant commander.

After completing graduate medical training at the University of Pennsylvania in 1958 and a residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, in 1959, Jim pursued his dream to return to Charleston, establishing his practice in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery in 1960.

While building a thriving practice, Jim entered the political arena, serving six years as the Charleston County Republican Party chairman. An unsuccessful bid for the United States Congress in 1971 was soon followed by his election to the South Carolina State Senate in 1972. Two years later, Jim was elected Governor of South Carolina—the state's first Republican Governor since reconstruction. Jim served as governor from 1975 to 1979, returning briefly to his oral surgery practice in Charleston.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Jim as Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, a position he held until November 1982, when he was called as president of the Medical University of South Carolina. Jim served as president of MUSC for 17 years, retiring in 2000. As president emeritus, Jim actively continued fundraising for the MUSC Health Sciences Foundation until 2014.

Among numerous civic and academic honors, Jim was granted the Order of the Palmetto for his public service to the State of South Carolina, and is an inductee into the South Carolina Hall of Fame. He served on the Board of Directors of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, SCANA, South Carolina National Bank, Encyclopedia Britannica, Waste Management, Chemical Waste Management, J. P. Stevens, Brendles, IMO Delaval, Inc., Philips Petroleum, National Data Corporation, Burris Chemical Co., the W. M. Benton Foundation, the MUSC Health Sciences Foundation, and the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT).

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Ann; his son, James B. Edwards, Jr. and his wife, Jenny, of Columbia; his daughter, Catharine E. Wingate, and her husband, Ken, of Columbia; grandchildren, Miriam Wingate Ashworth, K. Bryan Wingate, Jr., Ansley Darlington Edwards, James B. Edwards, III, Catharine Paxson Wingate, and Hellen Tucker Edwards; one great-grandchild, Eliza Ann Wingate, and numerous nephews and nieces. In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his sister,

Josephine E. Pinckney, his brother, Dr. Morton Thomas Edwards, his sisters, Ada Frances E. Melchers and Jane Ann E. Varn.

Visitation will be from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 28, 2014 at St. Luke's Chapel, on the Campus of the Medical University of South Carolina. The funeral service will be conducted at St. Philip's Church at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 29, 2014 by The Rt. Rev'd. Dr. C. FitzSimons Allison. Interment will follow in the churchyard of Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, after which the family will receive visitors in the parish hall of Christ Church.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to the MUSC Foundation for the College of Nursing or for the College of Dental Medicine. (MUSC Foundation, 18 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29425).

Arrangements by J. Henry Stuhr Inc., Mount Pleasant Chapel. A memorial message may be sent to the family by visiting our website at www.jhenrystuh.com. Visit our guestbook at www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston.

The Lexington County Chronicle published an inspiring tribute which reflects the extraordinary impact of Lexington County voters in 1974 where the county's victory margin of 10,433 was a large majority of the statewide victory margin of 17,477.

As an indication of the family's appreciation of Lexington County, its Member of Congress, JOE WILSON, was selected to be an Honorary Pall Bearer.

FORMER S.C. GOV. JAMES EDWARDS SUCCUMBS TO STROKE

(By Hal Millard)

James B. Edwards, the state's first GOP governor since Reconstruction, has died.

He was 87.

Edwards, a dentist by trade who in 1974 became the first Republican governor in South Carolina since 1876, died Dec. 26 at his Mount Pleasant home from complications caused by a stroke.

Politicians throughout the state mourned his passing.

Expressing her sympathy, Gov. Nikki Haley wrote on Facebook that Edwards "appreciated the opportunities and challenges of this office."

"Governor Edwards always offered kind words of support and encouragement—and we are forever grateful for his friendship," Haley wrote. "Michael and I are deeply saddened by the passing of Governor Edwards, whose love for South Carolina inspired him to serve until his last day . . ."

GOP Congressman Joe Wilson of Springdale echoed those sentiments and added, "I am grateful to have had a lifetime of working with Dr. Jim Edwards, and the honor of knowing his wife Anne, daughter Cathy, and son Jim. Dr. Edwards was a tireless stalwart for conservative limited government to expand freedom."

"In high school, I would visit his dental office for Goldwater materials, in his capacity as Charleston County Republican Chairman," Wilson continued. "In 1974, he courageously ran and was elected as South Carolina's first Republican governor. At that time, I worked with him on the State Development Board, where he recruited Michelin Tire Corporation to produce job opportunities for our citizens. I was honored to serve him in the visionary Reagan Administration as Deputy General Counsel as he achieved success in deregulation as Secretary of Energy."

Wilson also hailed Edwards' 17-year tenure as president of the Medical University of South Carolina.

"His return to Charleston as president of the Medical University of South Carolina resulted in MUSC becoming recognized for world-class universities," Wilson said. "South Carolina has lost a Southern Gentleman, devoted dad and grandfather, who has made a difference as a key architect for a political revolution."

Wilson noted that Edwards' groundbreaking win in 1974 was a precursor to the current Republican dominance in the Deep South.

"Dr. Edwards' vision of an inclusive Republican Party came to fulfillment [in December] with the U.S. Senate victory in Louisiana, from his start with no elected statewide Republican officials in the five-state Deep South, and now all statewide officials are Republicans," Wilson said.

Edwards became governor amid the turmoil of the Watergate years and was one of the few GOP bright spots in an election year in which Democrats dominated. A long-shot candidate who had previously served two years as a state senator from Charleston County, Edwards defeated Gen. William Westmoreland in the GOP primary, then upset long-time Democratic Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn in the general election.

Edwards served in an era when governors were prohibited from serving consecutive terms. Following his term as governor, Edwards was nominated as President Ronald Reagan's Energy Secretary; serving two years in that role before resigning to become president of MUSC.

PROTECTING EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES IN BUSINESS BANKRUPTCIES ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

SUMMARY

Throughout our Nation's history, hard-working American men and women have labored to make our businesses become the most productive and dynamic in the world. Unfortunately, when some of these businesses encounter financial difficulties and seek to reorganize their debts under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, these very same workers and retirees are often asked to make major sacrifices through lost job protections, lower wages, and the elimination of hard-won pension and health benefits, while the executives and managers of these businesses are not required to make comparable sacrifices.

We must do more to ensure that America's most important resource—workers and retirees—are treated more fairly when these businesses seek to reorganize their financial affairs under the protection of our bankruptcy laws. The Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2015 accomplishes this goal by amending the Bankruptcy Code in several respects. First, it improves recoveries for employees and retirees by: (1) increasing the amount of worker claims entitled to priority payment for unpaid wages and contributions to employee benefit plans up to \$20,000; (2) eliminating the difficult to prove restriction in current law that wage and benefit claims must be